

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1512
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2002
HIV INFECTED DRUG ADDICTS
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item `Delhi tops list of HIV infected drug addicts` as reported in The Hindu dated June 26, 2002;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check spread of HIV infected addicts in the Delhi?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. National AIDS Control Organisation conducts annual round of HIV Sentinel surveillance during August to October every year, all over the country, in designated sentinel sites, which also includes sites for injecting drug users (IDU).

During 2001 round of HIV Sentinel surveillance, one IDU site in Delhi reported HIV prevalence amount IDU as 2.4%.

(c) In order to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS in India, Govt. Of India has launched a comprehensive Programme, currently under implementation throughout the country as a centrally sponsored scheme with the following components:-

- Reducing the spread of HIV in groups at high risk by identification of target populations and providing peer counseling, condom promotion, and treatment of sexually transmitted infections. In case of injecting drug users, harm reduction intervention such as needle exchange programme is also promoted.
- Preventive intervention for the general population by Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and awareness campaign, provision of voluntary testing and counseling, safe blood transfusion services and prevention of occupational exposure.
- Providing financial assistance for opportunistic infections, home and community based care.
- Strengthening effectiveness and technical, managerial, financial sustainability at National, State and Municipal levels.
- Promoting collaboration amongst public, private and voluntary sectors.